REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated April 21, 2004 (Paper No. 7). Claims 1 to 9 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 5 and 9, are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,615,318 (Matsuura). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a coordinate input apparatus that detects three-dimensional position coordinates of an indicating tool. The present invention utilizes a stored set of coordinate values that define a three-dimensional space area, and determines whether the three-dimensional position coordinates of the indicating tool belong to the stored three-dimensional space area. If so, the present invention converts the three-dimensional coordinates of the indicating tool into coordinates for a display.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 recites a coordinate input apparatus which detects three-dimensional position coordinates of an indicating tool used in combination with a display for displaying a window based on two-dimensional coordinates. The apparatus comprises storage means for storing a set of coordinate values of a plurality of points for defining a three-dimensional space area and determination means for determining whether a three-dimensional coordinate value as position coordinates of the indicating tool belongs to the three-dimensional space area defined by the set of coordinate values stored in the storage means. The apparatus further

- 6 -

comprises conversion means for converting, responsive to a determination of the determination means that the three-dimensional value belongs to the three-dimensional space area, a position of the three-dimensional coordinate value in the three-dimensional space area into a display coordinate value of said display.

Independent Claims 5 and 9 are method and computer-readable memory claims, respectively, that correspond generally to the apparatus of independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 1, 5 and 9, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of determining whether a three-dimensional coordinate value as position coordinates of an indicating tool belongs to the three-dimensional space area defined by the set of coordinate values stored in a storage means (medium), and converting a position of the three-dimensional coordinate value into a display coordinate value responsive to a determination that the three-dimensional value belongs to the stored three-dimensional space area.

Matsuura relates to a method and apparatus of visualizing assembled sewing patterns. Matsuura is seen to teach an input means 1100 for inputting three-dimensional coordinate values of circumference of each horizontal cross section of a dress (column 6, lines 6-8; Fig. 1). Calculation means 1200 of Matsuura calculates, based on the output of the input means 1100, the three-dimensional coordinate value that represents the shape formed by assembling sewing patterns (column 6, lines 14-26; Fig. 1). Image processing means 1300 then generates, from the output of calculation means 1200, a two-dimensional projection image associated with the shape formed by assembling sewing patterns (column

6, lines 27-31; Fig. 1). The two-dimensional projection image is displayed on display means 1400 (column 6, lines 32-34; Fig. 1).

The Office Action takes the position that Matsuura's image processing means 1300 corresponds to the determination means of the present invention. However, Matsuura is in no way seen to teach or suggest that image processing means 1300 can determine if three-dimensional position values of an indicating tool belong to a three-dimensional space area defined by a set of stored values. Rather, image processing means 1300 is merely seen to generate a two-dimensional projection image associated with the shape formed by assembling sewing patterns (column 6, lines 26-31). Additionally, Matsuura is not seen to teach the use of an indicating tool.

The Office Action further contends that calculation means 1200 of Matsuura corresponds to the conversion means of the present invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Matsuura's calculation means 1200 is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the conversion means of the present invention, and is specifically not seen to teach the structure of the conversion means with respect to a determination means.

More specifically, Claim 1 recites that the conversion means is responsive to a determination of the determination means that the three-dimensional coordinate value belongs to said three-dimensional space area. Matsuura's calculation means 1200 is not seen to be responsive to any such determination. As can be seen in Fig. 1 of Matsuura, calculation means 1200 utilizes the output of input means 1100, which is merely seen to input coordinate values for dress patterns. As such, calculation means 1200 is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention's conversion means.
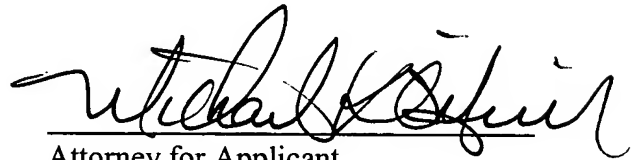
Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, amended independent Claims 1, 5 and 9 are believed to be allowable over the applied reference.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant
Michael K. O'Neill

Registration No.___32,622_____

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 82663v1

- 10 -